

# LGBTQ YOUTH IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

an infographic presented by

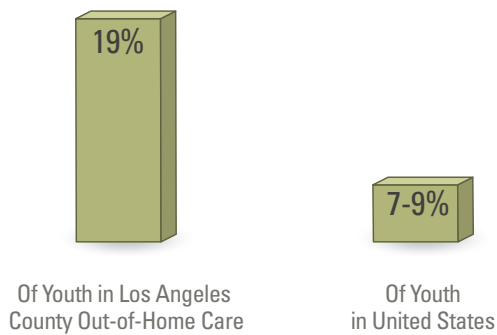


## LGBTQ YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Some LGBTQ youth experience family rejection and family instability. Research finds LGBTQ youth are more likely to be involved in the child welfare system.

### LGBTQ YOUTH ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Percent of Youth Identifying as LGBTQ



Source: Bianca D.M. Wilson et al., "Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster Care: Assessing Disproportionality and Disparities in Los Angeles" (Los Angeles: The Williams Institute, 2014).

## LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCE HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE

In the child welfare system, LGBTQ youth experience discrimination, harassment, and violence from peers and staff. This includes attempts to "change" their sexual orientation through the use of conversion therapy or refuse to acknowledge their gender identity.

### LGB YOUTH ARE UNSAFE IN FOSTER CARE

Percent of LGB Youth in New York City Who Ran Away from Foster Care Because It Was Unsafe



Source: Gerald P. Mallon, *We Don't Exactly Get the Welcome Wagon: The Experiences of Gay and Lesbian Adolescents in Child Welfare Systems* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998).

## LGBTQ YOUTH MORE LIKELY TO ENTER JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness and are more likely to "crossover" to the juvenile justice system. Nearly all LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system are youth of color (85%). LGBTQ youth are more likely to be detained and to experience sexual assault in juvenile justice facilities than their peers.

Source: Wilson et al., "Disproportionality and Disparities among Sexual Minority Youth in Custody," *Journal of Youth & Adolescence*, 2017; Irvine and Canfield, "Reflections on New National Data on LGBTQ/GNCT Youth In the Justice System." *LGBTQ Policy Journal at the Harvard Kennedy School*, 2017, Volume VII, 2016-17.

## LGB YOUTH OVERREPRESENTED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Percent of Youth Who Are LGB

